Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MOSCOW 00536 142134Z

73
ACTION EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 SP-02 INR-05

CIAE-00 H-01 EB-03 SAJ-01 /040 W
---------- 099570
R 141913Z JAN 76
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8696
INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 536

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652 GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, UR, US
SUBJECT: UNUSUAL MEETING BETWEEN SENATE STAFFER BENNET AND SOVIET OFFICIALS

1. SUMMARY. SENATE BUDGET COMMITTEE STAFF DIRECTOR DOUGLAS BENNET, JR. MET ALONE WITH TWO SOVIET OFFICIALS UNDER UNUSUAL CIRCUMSTANCES JANUARY 9. ALTHOUGH WE UNDERSTAND THAT NOTHING UNTOWARD TOOK PLACE AT THE MEETING, THE SOVIETS EXPRESSED GREAT INTEREST IN CONGRESSIONAL ATTITUDES TOWARD THE MFN ISSUE AND UNDERTOOK TO MAINTAIN CONTACT WITH BENNET THROUGH THE SOVIET EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON. END SUMMARY.

2. BENNET WAS ESCORTED TO THE HOTEL ROOM BY THE EMBASSY LOCAL, WHO THEN LEFT. BENNET WAS MET BY TWO SOVIETS, WHO INTRODUCED THEMSELVES AS AUDREY MIKHAILOVICH GORDEYEV AND FNU VOLKOV. THEY SAID THEY "WERE CONNECTED WITH THE MFA", DID NOT USUALLY MEET WITH FOREIGNERS, AND "ADVISED THE POLITBURO" ON U.S. AFFAIRS.

3. GORDEYEV, WHO SEEMED TO BE THE SENIOR MAN, WAS ABOUT 40. HE UNDERSTOOD SOME ENGLISH BUT SPOKE IN RUSSIAN. VOLKOV APPEARED TO BE IN HIS EARLY 30'S, KNEW ENGLISH WELL, AND ACTED AS INTERPRETER. AT ONE POINT IN THE CONVERSATION VOLKOV INDICATED THAT GORDEYEV HAD BEEN IN THE U.S. (OUR CONSULAR SECTION FILES HAVE NO RECORD OF HIM). GODEYEV SAID HIS TELEPHONE NUMBER AT
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MOSCOW 00536 142134Z

THE MFA WAS 244-33-59. EMBASSY BIOGRAPHIC FILES DISCLOSE NO

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

INFORMATION ON EITHER MAN.

4. AT THE OUTSET, THE SOVIETS SAID THEY WANTED TO MEET ALONE WITH BENNET "BECAUSE IT WAS HARD TO KNOW IF ONE WERE TALKING WITH CIA AGENTS", AND BENNET'S EMBASSY ESCORT MIGHT BE WITH THE CIA. BENNET REPORTED THAT THE MEETING ROOM, ON THE 16TH FLOOR, WAS GUARDED BY TWO PEOPLE "WHO LOOKED LIKE HOTEL EMPLOYEES."

5. JUDGING FROM BENNET'S DICTATED RECAP,THE SUBSTANCE OF THE DISCUSSION WAS UNEXCEPTIONAL AND NO ATTEMPT WAS MADE TO COMPROMISE HIM. IN RESPONSE TO GORDEYEV'S QUESTIONS, BENNET DISCUSSED THE GENERAL ROLE OF CONGRESS IN FOREIGN POLICY. BENNET THEN TURNED THE CONVERSATION TO ANGOLA AND THE JEWISH EMIGRATION ISSUE. WHEN BENNET HAD TO LEAVE FOR ANOTHER APPOINTMENT, AFTER ABOUT ONE HOUR, HE AGREED TO THE SOVIETS' REQUEST TO MEET AGAIN LATER THAT DAY AT THE SAME PLACE.

6. DURING THE SECOND SESSION, WHICH LASTED ONLY ABOUT 40 MINUTES, THE SOVIETS FOCUSED ON THE MFN ISSUE. BENNET SAID HE THOUGHT THAT IF THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT TOOK FORTHCOMING DECISONS IN THE NEAR FUTURE REGARDING ANGOLA AS WELL AS SOVIET JEWISH EMIGRATION, THE MFN QUESTION COULD BE RESOLVED RELATIVELY QUICKLY. BENNET SUGGESTED THAT THE SOVIET EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON SOUND OUT MEMBERS OF CONGRESS WHO HAD RECENTLY BEEN TO THE USSR. HE VOLUNTEERED TO TAKE SOUNDINGS IN THE SENATE ON ANGOLA AND MFN. HE NOTED THAT THE MFN ISSUE WOULD HAVE TO BE NEGOTIATED WITH THE ADMINISTRATION, NOT WITH CONGRESS.

7. GORDYYEV SAID HE WOULD INFORM DCM OF THE SOVIET EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON VORONTSOV OF THE CONVERSATION AND VORONTSOV OR SOMEONE ELSE FROM THE EMBASSY WOULD BE IN TOUCH WITH BENNET. GORDEYEV ADDED THAT HE WOULD LIKE TO MEET AGAIN WITH BENNET (WHO MAY RETURN TO THE USSR LATER THIS YEAR) AND ALSO WITH OTHER SENATE STAFFERS WHO MIGHT BE VISITING MOSCOW. GORDEYEV WONDERED IF SUCH MEETINGS COULD BE ARRANGE "IN THIS CHANNEL." BENNET SAID THEY COULD, BUT HE KNEW OF NO ONE PRESENTLY PLANNNG A TRIP TO MOSCOW.

8. COMMENT. IT IS DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND WHY THE MEETING WAS SET UP BY THE SOVIET SIDE IN THE ROSSIYA. IF THEIR AIM WAS TO EXCLUDE EMBASSY PARTICIPATION, THIS COULD HAVE EASILY BEEN CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 MOSCOW 00536 142134Z

ACCOMPLISHED REGARDLESS OF THE MEETING SITE. PERHAPS GORDEYEV AND VOLKOV IN FACT WORK IN THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE APPARATUS, OR SOMEWHERE ELSE OTHER THAN THE MFA, BUT THIS WOULD NOT READILY EXPLAIN THEIR USING A HOTEL ROOM. IN ANY EVENT, IT OF COURSE REMAINS EMBASSY POLICY THAT A LEAST ONE EMBASSY OFFICER SHOULD ACCOMPANY OFFICIALS VISITORS ON CALLS.

9. WE DID NOT HAVE A CHANCE TO DISCUSS THE MATTER IN DETAIL WITH

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

BENNET PRIOR TO HIS DEPARTURE. WE WOULD BE INTERESTED IN ANY BIO INFORMATION THE DEPARTMENT CAN TURN UP ON GORDEYEV AND VOLKOV.
MATLOCK

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: coburnhl
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976MOSCOW00536
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760014-0947
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760158/aaaabzsv.tel
Line Count: 118
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: coburnhl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08 MAR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <08 MAR 2004 by GarlanWA>; APPROVED <01 SEP 2004 by coburnhl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: UNUSUAL MEETING BETWEEN SENATE STAFFER BENNET AND SOVIET OFFICIALS
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, UR, US, (BENNET, DOUGLAS), (GORDEYEV, AUDREY MIKHAILOVICH), (VOLKOV, FNU)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006